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ROYAL BABY: JOHN, ANNE OR PEACHES {pages 06-07}

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PHILADELPHIA
Tuesday, December 4, 2012

GETTY IMAGES

Style. Victoria's Secret Fashion Show

$2.5M

The Floral Fantasy Bra is worth $2.5 million. London Jewelers created the bra, which features amethysts, rubies, sapphires and diamonds set in both rose- and yellow-gold.

▶ Alessandra Ambrosio models the Floral Fantasy Bra. For more pictures from the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, airing tonight on CBS, visit www.metro.us/style. {pages 16-17}

Straight out of 'The Wire': Bodies covered in lime found

Suspect charged in murders of alleged drug dealer partners Bodies found in vacant house on same block where alleged killer resides, police said {page 02}

travel

Virginia is for lovers, but it's also for oysters

The state is heavily promoting these briny bivalves {page 20}

Give them books that rock {page 15}

Washburn newest scapegoat {page 22}

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Murder suspect uses strategy straight from TV crime annals

Suspect in two killings charged with covering his victims in lime to decompose their bodies and cover scent of death Bodies found on same block where suspect allegedly sold narcotics out of house with 'associates'

In a plot that seems pulled of HBO's classic crime series "The Wire," authorities yesterday announced the arrest of 23-year-old David Williams for allegedly killing two acquaintances, covering their bodies with lime and storing them in a neglected rowhome on the 1700 block of West Erie Avenue.

Officers responded to the house Saturday afternoon, where in the basement they found the body of 26-year-old Anthony Hicks, who had been shot in the head. Police took in Williams for questioning, as he had been known to reside in the home with Hicks.

A missing persons report filed by family members of the third victim, Robert Jones, who homicide Lt. Mel Williams described as an "associate" of the other two men, led investigators back to the property on Sunday afternoon.

"After reading everything and having Mr. Williams here and [Jones'] family saying Mr. Jones does frequent that location sometimes, that made me send my investigators back out there to check the house again and make sure we didn't miss anything," Lt. Williams said.

Officers then found Jones in a second-floor bedroom. He had been shot multiple times, covered with lime and buried beneath trash, coats and other debris in a clothing-strewn room.

"With so much debris and trash, [Williams] basically covered him up," Lt. Williams said. "One of the things we obviously didn't do effectively — and I'll take blame for that — but at end of the day, we're supposed to check every house."

David Williams is charged with two counts of murder and arson. Investigators it appears he tried to set the house on fire after the slayings.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Many of the thousands of vacant houses that pockmark the city's landscape also serve as drug dens for dealers.

Drugs often find home in vacants

Lt. Williams said the discovery of bodies in neglected or vacant homes has not been a common occurrence during his seven years with the Homicide Unit.

But at his former assignment with Narcotics, he often saw vacant properties being used in the drug trade.

"It's always easy to use a vacant house because there's nothing to tie you with that house," he said. "And if it's vacant, they always have the front entrance open and if they think police are coming up in there, they can come out of the back."

He believes the Erie Avenue house was being used in a similar manner.

"They have a lot of activity there," he said. "My investigation indicates that they were selling drugs out of there."

The killings stemmed from an argument between three men, according to Lt. Williams.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

Weekend roundup

The city's homicide count continued to climb, with the announcement of the Erie Avenue victims bringing it to seven victims this weekend.

A burning body was found in a stairwell on the 1500 block of West Allegheny Avenue in Tioga around 5:30 a.m. Monday morning. The victim has not yet been identified. If investigation reveals the death to be a homicide, it will bring the weekend murder tally to eight victims.

Investigators yesterday released the identity of the teen killed in Girard Park Saturday night. Daquan Parker, 17, was shot on the 2000 block of South Croskey Street.

Police also released the identity of the man taken into custody by an off-duty Chester City officer early Sunday morning for the alleged slaying of 20-year-old Victor Rodriguez in West Philadelphia. Quinton Frierson, 27, also known as Quinton Ferguson, is charged with murder, conspiracy and firearms offenses.

No arrests have yet been made in the early Sunday morning shooting death of a 45-year-old woman behind the wheel of an SUV in Allegheny West.

In the news

11.6%

Vacancy rate in Center City's retail space, down from 12.1 percent in 2011, according to a report from Center City District. The special services district said pedestrian traffic was also up based on their counts. METRO

In the news

Cat and man hoarder

Police on Friday arrested a Reading woman for allegedly hoarding dozens of animals, as well as her 72-year-old ex-boyfriend, according to a report from the York Daily Record. Mary Lou Petrucci, 55, allegedly kept Harold Scheaffer locked in a room of her home for three months, bringing him only one meal each day. Petrucci shut Scheaffer in the room and nailed the windows shut after she started seeing another man, who reportedly lived out of his car in Petrucci's backyard. METRO

In the news

Montco officials stymied, offer murder reward

MONTGOMERY COUNTY. A $5,000 reward is being offered in the murder of a 21-year-old man in Norristown.

Ryan Ladson-Singleton, 21, was shot and killed outside a house on the 600 block of Green Street on Oct. 20, authorities said.

Several witnesses and community members believed to have information about the shooting have refused to come forward, giving investigators few leads in the case, officials said.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 610-278-3368. METRO

Man stabbed in laundromat

OGONTZ. Police are investigating a stabbing inside a laundromat that left a man in critical condition early this morning.

Investigators said a 40-year-old Asian man was stabbed multiple times in the chest and head inside Top Laundromat on the 6200 block of North Broad Street shortly after 1 a.m. He was rushed to Albert Einstein Medical Center, where he remains in critical condition.

There is no word on a motive, and no arrests have yet been made. METRO

Archdiocese education chief to retire in '13

PHILADELPHIA. The Secretary for Catholic Education of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will retire in February, church officials announced yesterday.

Richard McCarron will retire Feb. 1 after a 25-year tenure. McCarron oversaw operations for secondary, elementary and special education schools.

The Archdiocese will conduct a national search for his replacement in conjunction with Faith in the Future, the organization which oversees Archdiocesan high schools. METRO

Queen Village robber sought

Police have released video surveillance of an armed robbery at a mini mart in Queen Village last week.

The incident occurred Nov. 27 at 9:30 p.m. at the Queen Village Mini Market near Second and Christian streets.

Police said the three men entered the store, including one armed with a shotgun and Taser, and demanded money. Two of the suspects went behind the counter and beat the clerk in the head and body and used the stun gun on him. The suspects fled after taking $3,000. Police arrested one suspect, Antoine Vance, who is from the area, last week. The two other suspects remain at-large. METRO

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Schools closed as toxic fumes remain

Schools in Paulsboro, N.J., were ordered closed yesterday after authorities detected rising levels of toxic chemicals streaming from a freight train wrecked in a derailment last week.

Investigators, meanwhile, said Conrail workers had checked a bridge just one day before it collapsed on Friday, derailing seven of the 82 freight-train cars crossing the Mantua Creek, which feeds into the Delaware River near Philadelphia.

"We have information that there were people out from Conrail working on the bridge the day before," National Transportation Safety Board Chairwoman Deborah Hersman said.

"They were doing some inspections; they were looking at the bridge," she said, noting the last recorded inspection of the track was on Nov. 20.

Four tanker cars remained toppled into the waterway yesterday, including one with a gash that allowed vinyl chloride to escape.

On Friday authorities estimated the size of leak at more than 12,000 gallons of the highly toxic and flammable industrial chemical.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Hersman

Quoted

"As a result ... the fire chief made a precautionary measure to close the schools at least for the day."

AMEEN

An elevated reading of the hazardous chemical was detected at 6 a.m. at a local air monitoring station, prompting the shutdown of schools until further notice, Coast Guard Petty Officer Nick Ameen said.

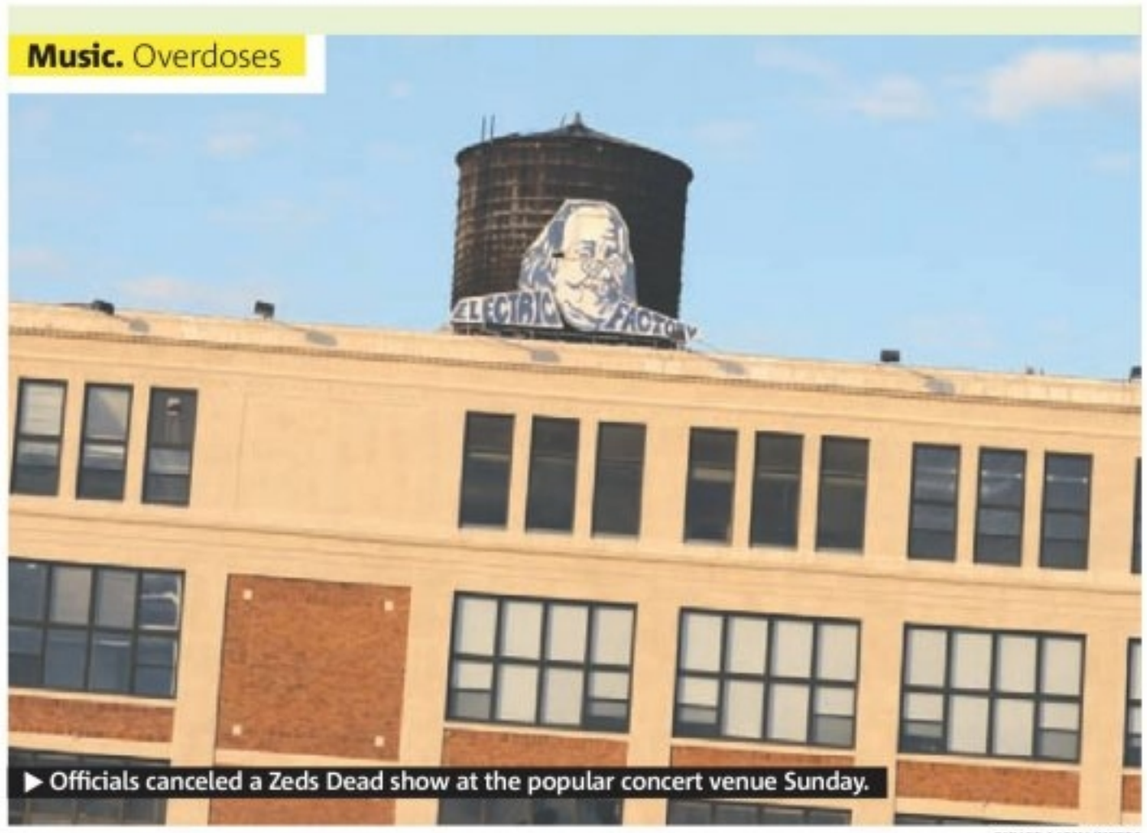
"As a result of that the fire chief made a precautionary measure to close the schools at least for the day," Ameen said.

Exposure to vinyl chloride is known to cause a burning sensation in the eyes or respiratory discomfort.

The rail bridge is near the residential and commercial sections of the town of 6,100 people, which is also home to two oil refineries as well as chemical plants. Some 48 houses closest to the wreck were evacuated and residents will not be allowed to return to their homes before December 8, the Coast Guard said.

Hersman said the transportation inspectors would spend the next two weeks preparing a preliminary accident report. **REUTERS**

Music. Overdoses



▶ Officials canceled a Zeds Dead show at the popular concert venue Sunday.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Concertgoers may have popped some bad pills

Police believe pills, possibly ecstasy, may have been to blame for drug overdoses of several people at the Electric Factory over the weekend. At least five people had to be hospitalized Saturday night after they fell out, including a juvenile who was rushed to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Police said some of those hospitalized were also intoxicated. Electric Factory did not return calls or e-mails seeking comment. REUTERS

Push for PA electoral changes

A Pennsylvania state lawmaker's plan to divvy up electoral votes based on a presidential candidate's public support may be just the first of many state legislative moves to alter the way the nation chooses a leader.

State Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi, a Republican from Chester, wants to replace the winner-take-all system, which gave President Barack Obama Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes, with one that divides them to reflect the proportion of public support for each candidate. His method would have given 12 votes to Obama and eight to Republican Mitt Romney this year.

"Anyone who voted for Governor Romney, and many Pennsylvanians did, does not have any reflection of that vote in the electoral college vote," Pileggi said.

Pileggi's proposal, which he asked senators in a memo to cosponsor, may be the first of a spate presented to lawmakers nationwide. Daniel P. Tokaji, a law professor at Ohio State University, said he wouldn't be surprised to see Republicans and Democrats seeking ways to "game the system" ahead of the 2016 presidential election.

Pileggi plans to introduce the bill next month. Last year he pushed a bill to carve up electoral votes based on results from congressional districts, to no avail. **BLOOMBERG**

▶ Pileggi

"This is ... not party-specific or partisan in any way, but just an attempt to have the popular vote reflected in the electoral college vote." PILEGGI

Swing state

- Adopting a proportional method of allocation would lessen Pennsylvania's importance as a swing state in national politics, Tokaji said. While Republicans control the Legislature and the governor's office, voters have backed Democrats for president since 1992.

Former Philly attorney sues for alleged corporate sexism

Greenberg Traurig LLP was sued for $200 million by a former partner who claims that women at the law firm are paid less and given fewer opportunities for advancement than their male counterparts.

Francine Griesing, who worked as a Greenberg Traurig partner in Philadelphia from April 2007 to January 2010, filed a complaint in federal court in Manhattan yesterday, seeking to represent a class of current and former women partners at the firm.

"GT, in short, pays women less, promotes them at lower rates than men and virtually freezes them out from high-level managerial positions," Griesing said in her complaint.

In a statement, Hilarie Bass, a member of Greenberg Traurig's executive committee, called the suit "a financially motivated publicity stunt" and said it lacks merit. **BLOOMBERG**

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Prince William and wife Kate expecting a baby

Britain's Prince William and his wife Catherine are expecting a baby, destined to be the country's future monarch, although the mother-to-be is in the hospital with a type of very acute morning sickness that sometimes indicates twins.

"Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are very pleased to announce that The Duchess of Cambridge is expecting a baby," the prince's office said in a statement yesterday, adding that Queen Elizabeth and the royal family were delighted.

The couple, officially known as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, married in April of last year amid a global media frenzy, and there has been much speculation, particularly in U.S. gossip magazines, about a possible pregnancy.

"It's only been a matter of time. Everyone has been waiting for Kate to announce that she was pregnant," Claudia Joseph, who has written a biography of the duchess, told Reuters.

"I'm delighted by the news that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are expecting a baby," Prime Minister David Cameron said on Twitter. "They will make wonderful parents." REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The royal parents

Quoted

"It's something everyone can look forward to, just like their wedding brought the whole nation together."

JOHANNA CASTLE, 25, A SALES ASSISTANT IN AN EAST LONDON HOMEWEAR AND FASHION STORE

A throne awaits

William, Queen Elizabeth's 30-year-old grandson, is second in line to the British throne, and their first child will become the third in succession when he or she is born.

Last year Britain and other Commonwealth countries that have the queen as their monarch agreed to change the rules of royal succession so that males would no longer have precedence as heir, regardless of age.

The agreement also ends a ban on a future monarch marrying a Catholic, a stipulation dating back 300 years. REUTERS

Privacy is key

Britain's royal family is currently riding the crest of popularity on the back of William and Kate's wedding and the queen's Diamond Jubilee this year, which has witnessed nationwide celebrations.

With their fame has come unwanted attention, and there was anger in Britain when topless photos of Kate relaxing on holiday were published in a French magazine in September.

The pictures rekindled memories of the media pursuit of William's mother, Princess Diana, who was killed in a car crash in Paris in 1997 while being chased by paparazzi.

"I will be very surprised if this isn't handled with the utmost tact and sensitivity," said media commentator Steve Hewlett. "Newspapers realize there's a huge amount of goodwill towards Will and Kate, and they take their cue from their readers." REUTERS

▶ Princess Diana would have been a grandmother at 51. Newsweek made this aged composite in 2011.

Proud dad

Earlier in the week, William had hinted at a pregnancy during a visit to Cambridge in central England when they were given a homemade baby suit emblazoned with the words "Daddy's little co-pilot," a reference to William's job as a military pilot.

William, a Royal Air Force helicopter pilot, was at Kate's side, and she is likely to remain in the hospital for several days. There is no detail about when the baby is due, although the prince's spokesman said she is less than 12 weeks pregnant.

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Severe sickness forced early announcement of royal pregnancy

Catherine's pregnancy was announced hurriedly yesterday after she was admitted to King Edward VII Hospital in central London for hyperemesis gravidarum, a very severe form of morning sickness.

"This is the extreme end of the bell curve," says Dr. Katherine O'Connell White, the division chief of the Obstetrics-Gynecology Department, General Obstetrics and Gynecology Division, Family Planning Section at Boston's Baystate Medical Center. "Some degree of nausea happens within 50 to 90 percent of pregnancies. Hyperemesis gravidarum is the term for the extreme, which is roughly half a percent to 2 percent of pregnant women."

Women with hyperemesis gravidarum are severely dehydrated. They may feel dizzy upon standing, have trouble urinating frequently, pass dark-colored urine and/or lose weight. Medication and sometimes hospitalization is used to treat it.

"The hospitalization happens if you are vomiting so much that your electrolytes are imbalanced," Dr. White says. You also can develop keytones in your urine, "a sign that your body is burning through muscle because it doesn't have enough calories coming in through what you eat."

But Dr. White isn't saying that the mom-to-be brought this upon herself. "It's not because she's too skinny, it's not because she's privileged — it's just because she's unlucky."

And even though Kate is suffering, she need not worry about this hurting her child. "As long as she is treated for her dehydration, her pregnancy is not at risk," she says. **METRO/REUTERS**

Could it be twins?

Professor Tim Draycott, a consultant obstetrician at the University of Bristol, said the condition was common in the early weeks of pregnancy but did not put the baby at any increased risk — although in extreme cases it can lead to a low birth weight. Draycott told Reuters it may also indicate more than one royal baby may be in the offing.

"Hyperemesis is slightly more common with twins," he said. It affected around one in 100 to 200 pregnant women.

GETTY IMAGES

A model mom

Claudia Joseph, author of "Kate: The Making of a Princess," said she believed the couple, who currently live in a military base in north Wales, had been waiting for the right moment to have a baby.

"My feeling has always been that they were not going to take the spotlight away from the queen in her Jubilee. But now 2013 is going to be William and Kate's year," she said, adding that the couple would make wonderful parents.

"We have seen her with children, and she is lovely with them. She's got the natural touch." JOSEPH

"We have seen her with children, and she is lovely with them. She's got the natural touch, and her parents run a party business and she has spent a lot of time with children," Joseph said. "[William] has always talked about wanting children, so I am sure he is delighted." **REUTERS**

Prince Brooklyn?

When he or she is born, the royal baby will be third in line to the throne, bumping his or her uncle — Prince Harry — down to fourth place.

The baby will be a great-great-great-great-great-grandchild of Queen Victoria.

The betting company Oddschecker.com says, "If it's a boy, John and Robert are the two early favorites at 10/1, whilst it's 12/1 duke and duchess of Cambridge name their child Charles after William's father."

Anne and Frances are the 12/1 favorites if it's a girl, but you can get 16/1 on the royal couple naming their newborn Diana, after William's late mother.

Among the outside bets are Harry at 33/1, Matilda at 100/1, Peaches at 500/1 and Brooklyn, the name of David and Victoria's Beckham's firstborn, at 1000/1.

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In the news

Text messages face challenge on 20th SMS anniversary

LONDON. Text messages turned 20 yesterday, and their use may rise 40 percent by 2016, even as mobile-phone owners increasingly rely on Facebook and WhatsApp to communicate.

The first SMS, or short message service, text was sent over Vodafone Group's network on Dec. 3, 1992, with the message "Merry Christmas." By 2016, users may send 9.4 trillion texts, generating $127 billion in revenue, up from 6.7 trillion forecast for this year, according to researcher Informa Plc.

SMS became a key source of income for carriers, initially costing users a few cents per text and eventually becoming wrapped into unlimited plans. As more customers have switched to smartphones, with better access to the Internet, people are increasingly using chat features on Facebook and other websites. **BLOOMBERG**

US worried Syria may start using chemical weapons

GETTY IMAGES

The U.S. is increasingly concerned that Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria might use chemical weapons to put down a rebellion, the White House press secretary, Jay Carney, said.

As it fails to stem the upheaval by conventional means, concern "has increased" that the regime might turn to its chemical weapons stockpiles, Carney told reporters at his regular briefing in Washington.

Carney refused to say what measures the U.S. may be considering. "Contingency planning is the responsible thing to do," he said.

▶ Al-Assad

"The Assad regime must know the world is watching," he said.

Carney reiterated that any use of chemical weapons would be a "red line" that would trigger U.S. action. **BLOOMBERG**

UN suspends Syria aid

The United Nations said yesterday it was suspending its aid operations in Syria and withdrawing all nonessential international staff due to the worsening security situation.

Up to 25 of about 100 foreign staff could leave this week, it said, adding that more armored vehicles were needed after attacks in recent weeks on humanitarian aid convoys and the hijacking of goods or vehicles. **REUTERS**

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*ACIP=Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

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Patient Information about ZOSTAVAX® (pronounced "ZOS tah vax") Generic name: Zoster Vaccine Live 9989115

You should read this summary of information about ZOSTAVAX before you are vaccinated. If you have any questions about ZOSTAVAX after reading this page, you should ask your health care provider. This information does not take the place of talking about ZOSTAVAX with your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider. Only your health care provider can decide if ZOSTAVAX is right for you.

What is ZOSTAVAX and how does it work?
ZOSTAVAX is a vaccine that is used for adults 50 years of age or older to prevent shingles (also known as zoster).

ZOSTAVAX contains a weakened chickenpox virus (varicella-zoster virus).

ZOSTAVAX works by helping your immune system protect you from getting shingles.

If you do get shingles even though you have been vaccinated, ZOSTAVAX may help prevent the nerve pain that can follow shingles in some people. ZOSTAVAX does not protect everyone, so some people who get the vaccine may still get shingles.

ZOSTAVAX cannot be used to treat shingles, or the nerve pain that may follow shingles, once you have it.

What do I need to know about shingles and the virus that causes it?
Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. Once you have had chickenpox, the virus can stay in your nervous system for many years. For reasons that are not fully understood, the virus may become active again and give you shingles. Age and problems with the immune system may increase your chances of getting shingles.

Shingles is a rash that is usually on one side of the body. The rash begins as a cluster of small red spots that often blister. The rash can be painful. Shingles rashes usually last up to 30 days and, for most people, the pain associated with the rash lessens as it heals.

Who should not get ZOSTAVAX?
You should not get ZOSTAVAX if you:
- are allergic to any of its ingredients.
- are allergic to gelatin or neomycin.
- have a weakened immune system (for example, an immune deficiency, leukemia, lymphoma, or HIV/AIDS).
- take high doses of steroids by injection or by mouth.
- are pregnant or plan to get pregnant.

You should not get ZOSTAVAX to prevent chickenpox.

Children should not get ZOSTAVAX.

How is ZOSTAVAX given?
ZOSTAVAX is given as a single dose by injection under the skin.

What should I tell my health care provider before I get ZOSTAVAX?
You should tell your health care provider if you:
- have or have had any medical problems.
- take any medicines, including non-prescription medicines, and dietary supplements.
- have any allergies, including allergies to neomycin or gelatin.
- had an allergic reaction to another vaccine.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- are breast-feeding.

Tell your health care provider if you expect to be in close contact (including household contact) with newborn infants, someone who may be pregnant and has not had chickenpox or been vaccinated against chickenpox, or someone who has problems with their immune system. Your health care provider can tell you what situations you may need to avoid.

Can I get ZOSTAVAX with other vaccines?
Talk to your health care provider if you plan to get ZOSTAVAX at the same time as the flu vaccine.

Talk to your health care provider if you plan to get ZOSTAVAX at the same time as PNEUMOVAX®23 (Pneumococcal Vaccine Polyvalent) because it may be better to get these vaccines at least 4 weeks apart.

What are the possible side effects of ZOSTAVAX?
The most common side effects that people in the clinical studies reported after receiving the vaccine include:
- redness, pain, itching, swelling, hard lump, warmth, or bruising where the shot was given.
- headache

The following additional side effects have been reported with ZOSTAVAX:
- allergic reactions, which may be serious and may include difficulty in breathing or swallowing. If you have an allergic reaction, call your doctor right away.
- chickenpox
- fever
- hives at the injection site
- joint pain
- muscle pain
- nausea
- rash
- rash at the injection site
- swollen glands near the injection site (that may last a few days to a few weeks)

Tell your health care provider if you have any new or unusual symptoms after you receive ZOSTAVAX. For a complete list of side effects, ask your health care provider.

Call 1-800-986-8999 to report any exposure to ZOSTAVAX during pregnancy.

What are the ingredients of ZOSTAVAX?
Active Ingredient: a weakened form of the varicella-zoster virus.

Inactive Ingredients: sucrose, hydrolyzed porcine gelatin, sodium chloride, monosodium L-glutamate, sodium phosphate dibasic, potassium phosphate monobasic, potassium chloride.

This page summarizes important information about ZOSTAVAX. If you would like more information, talk to your health care provider or visit the website at www.ZOSTAVAX.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

Rx only

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Metro Magic toy drive

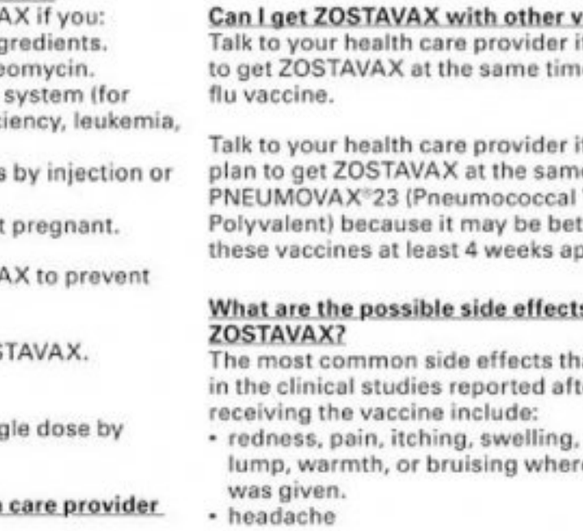
1 Log on to **www.metro.us** and look for the Metro Magic logo at the top left.

2 One click on the logo will take you to a "wish list" we have set up via a secure link on **Toysrus.com**. Once there, you can see all the toys we've already requested, with more added daily.

▶ All the gifts purchased will be sent directly to Metro's office. It's the third year of Metro Magic, where we ask our readers to go online to buy toys for underprivileged children. METRO

US worried Syria may start using chemical weapons

GETTY IMAGES



▶ A U.S. soldier wears a gas mask as he takes part in a chemical, biological and radiological warfare exercise.

The U.S. is increasingly concerned that Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria might use chemical weapons to put down a rebellion, the White House press secretary, Jay Carney, said.

As it fails to stem the upheaval by conventional means, concern "has increased" that the regime might turn to its chemical weapons stockpiles, Carney told reporters at his regular briefing in Washington.

Carney refused to say what measures the U.S. may be considering. "Contingency planning is the responsible thing to do," he said.

▶ Al-Assad

"The Assad regime must know the world is watching," he said.

Carney reiterated that any use of chemical weapons would be a "red line" that would trigger U.S. action. BLOOMBERG

UN suspends Syria aid

The United Nations said yesterday it was suspending its aid operations in Syria and withdrawing all nonessential international staff due to the worsening security situation.

Up to 25 of about 100 foreign staff could leave this week, it said, adding that more armored vehicles were needed after attacks in recent weeks on humanitarian aid convoys and the hijacking of goods or vehicles. reuters

News in brief

METRO FILE PHOTO

Text messages face challenge on 20th SMS anniversary

LONDON. Text messages turned 20 yesterday, and their use may rise 40 percent by 2016, even as mobile-phone owners increasingly rely on Facebook and WhatsApp to communicate.

The first SMS, or short message service, text was sent over Vodafone Group's network on Dec. 3, 1992, with the message "Merry Christmas." By 2016, users may send 9.4 trillion texts, generating $127 billion in revenue, up from 6.7 trillion forecast for this year, according to researcher Informa Plc.

SMS became a key source of income for carriers worldwide, initially costing users a few cents per text and eventually becoming wrapped into unlimited voice and data plans. As more customers have switched to smartphones, with better access to the Internet and more applications, people are increasingly using chat features on Facebook and other websites. BLOOMBERG

Obama takes Twitter questions on fiscal cliff

WASHINGTON. President Barack Obama took questions via Twitter yesterday on the looming fiscal cliff and his efforts to extend tax cuts for Americans making less than $250,000 a year, his spokesperson said.

Spokesperson Jay Carney said Obama took questions at 2 p.m. yesterday. REUTERS

The end of the world as a professor knows it

Relax: Dec. 21 is just the latest in a long history of apocalypse prediction dates Temple professor Barry Vacker on our culture's obsession with doomsday

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Like May 21, 2011, Vacker predicts Dec. 21 will be a fairly ordinary day.

The world isn't going to end on Dec. 21, despite what the Mayans did (or didn't) predict. Our fascination with stories about the end of the world isn't going to disappear, either.

These stories have been told since Plato wrote about the destruction of an entire continent in "Atlantis," says Barry Vacker, associate professor of media studies and production at Temple University's School of Media and Communication. Today, movies like "Armageddon" and "Melancholia" prove that the fascination continues. "What all of these various scenarios have in common is that they pose the question: 'What if?' Whether it's bioterrorism, global warming or a meteor, people like to think about what might happen and how we might react," says Vacker.

Some of the scenarios are ridiculous and unlikely, but others are more realistic. These fact-based scenarios are intended to explore human behavior and make an argument for how we should act as a unified species, not how we should act as individuals. "Examining what would happen if we continue burning fossil fuels or use nuclear weapons can serve as a warning," Vacker says.

Vacker's latest book, "The End of the World — Again: Why the Apocalypse Meme Replicates in Media, Science, and Culture," will be published later this month — and it's likely sales won't be hurting. "In the past year, NASA has spent $4 million looking for near-earth objects," Vacker says. "Compare that to the $550 million the American public has spent for tickets to 'Armageddon.'"

JUDY WEIGHTMAN
letters@metro.us

If you go

Vacker will be participating in a three-evening celebration marking the predicted end of the world at PhilaMOCA (531 N. 12th St.) Dec. 19-21. Events include panel discussions, apocalyptic film screenings and an end of the world party — with a countdown.

In the news

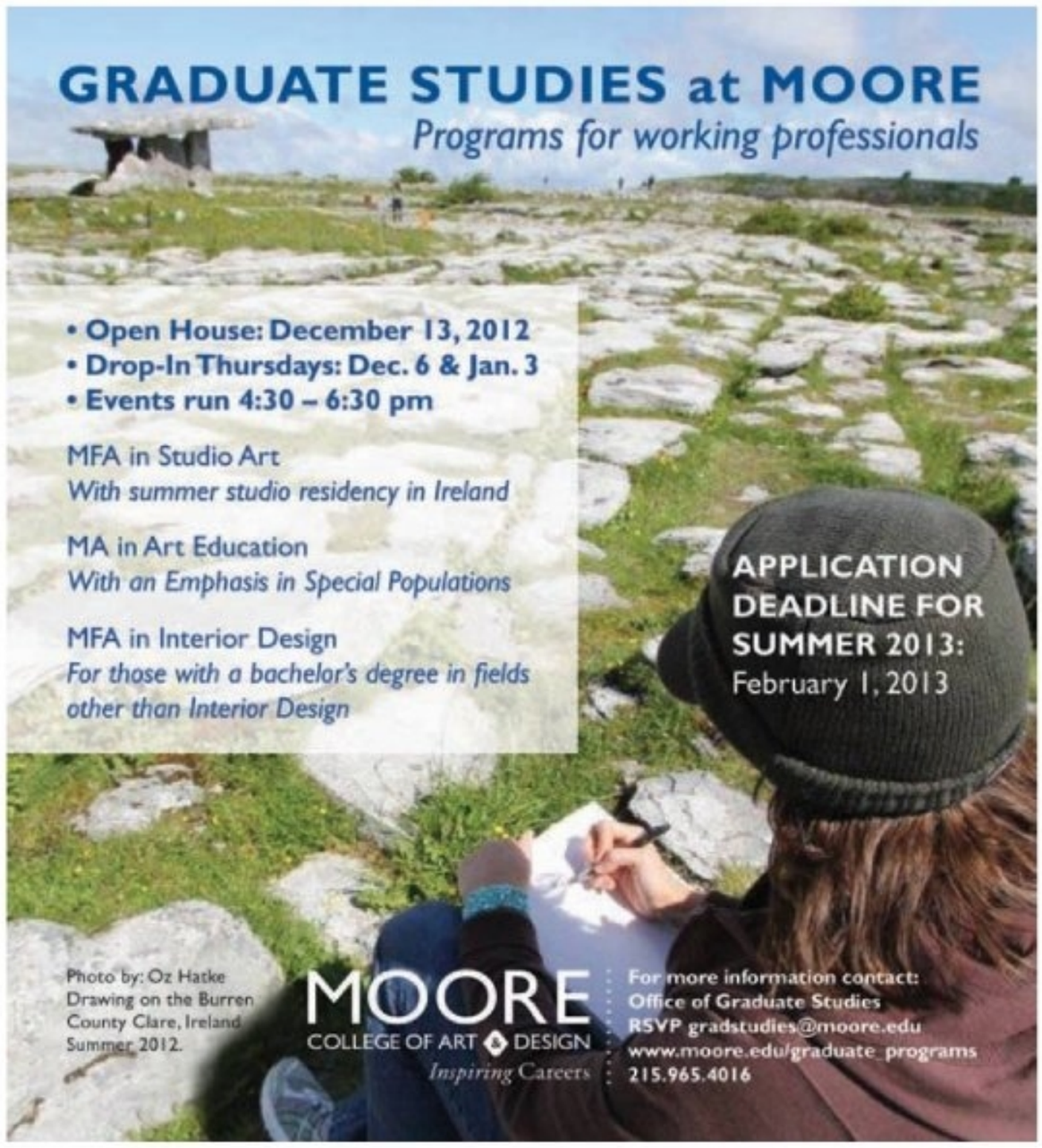
La Salle gets green

Last Thursday, about 300 La Salle students helped the university's ground crew plant 50 new trees on campus. The trees were donated by the Tree Campus USA program, which was created by the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota, in recognition of La Salle's recycling campaign. Tree Campus USA honors colleges and universities that promote healthy urban forest management.

Drexel bridging the digital divide

Members of TechServe, a Drexel student organization, are accepting donations for used computers from Drexel departments and local business. The group will refurbish the computers and donate them to nonprofit organizations in an effort to help bridge the digital divide in the Philadelphia area. They will refurbish 300 to 400 computers this year — significantly more than previous years.

JUDY WEIGHTMAN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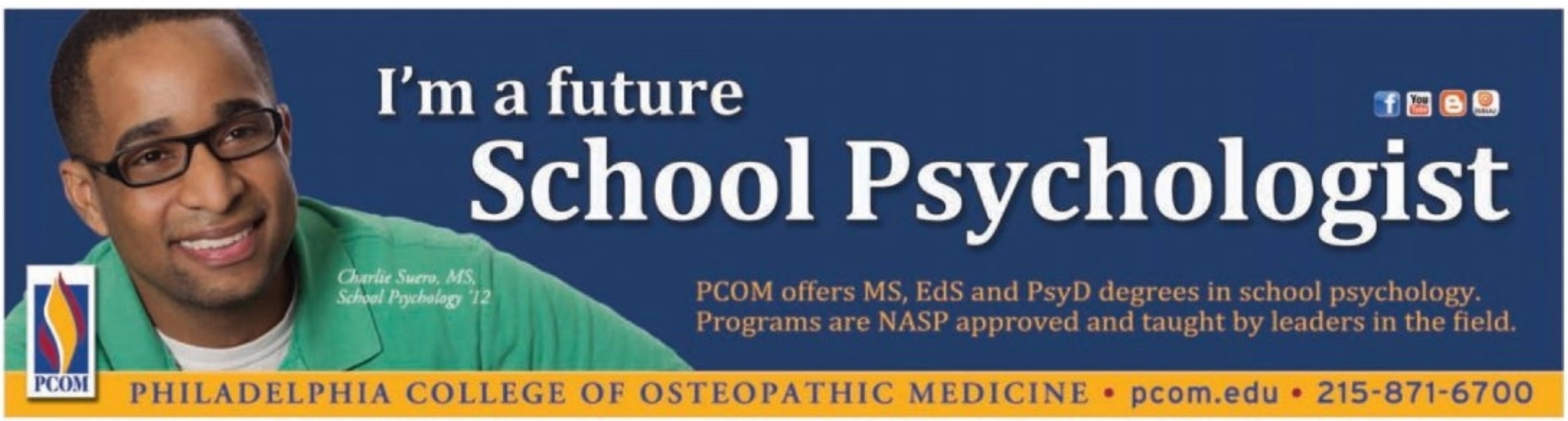
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MacFarlane bringing students to the Oscars

The 'Family Guy' creator and Academy Awards host is looking for film students to join him onstage

So this is the kind of lowbrow vulgarity we get when we allow the creator of "The Family Guy" to host the Oscars: Seth MacFarlane will let the golden statuettes be handled by — brace yourself — college students.

We'll give you a moment to unclutch your pearls.

For an episode of mtvU's "Stand In" series, in which celebrities visit college classes, MacFarlane talks to a group of UCLA film students about his work. He also announces the details of "The Oscar Experience College Search," which will be presented by The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and mtvU.

Winners of the contest will appear on the Oscar show, where they will deliver statuettes to celebrity presenters.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Seth MacFarlane

Quoted

"For a film student to go to the Oscars and be a part of presenting is a huge break."
MACFARLANE

"In reimagining what we want the Oscar show to be, we wanted everyone appearing on that stage to feel a deep commitment to film and its legacy, and most importantly, its future," said telecast producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron.

Added MacFarlane: "For a film student to go to the Oscars and be a part of presenting is a huge break."

The Oscar Experience College Search will be featured on The Academy's Facebook page through Jan. 19. College students entering the contest will need to upload a video saying how they will contribute to the future of movies. At least six winners will be flown to Los Angeles to participate in the 85th Academy Awards on Feb. 24. TIM MOLLOY/REUTERS

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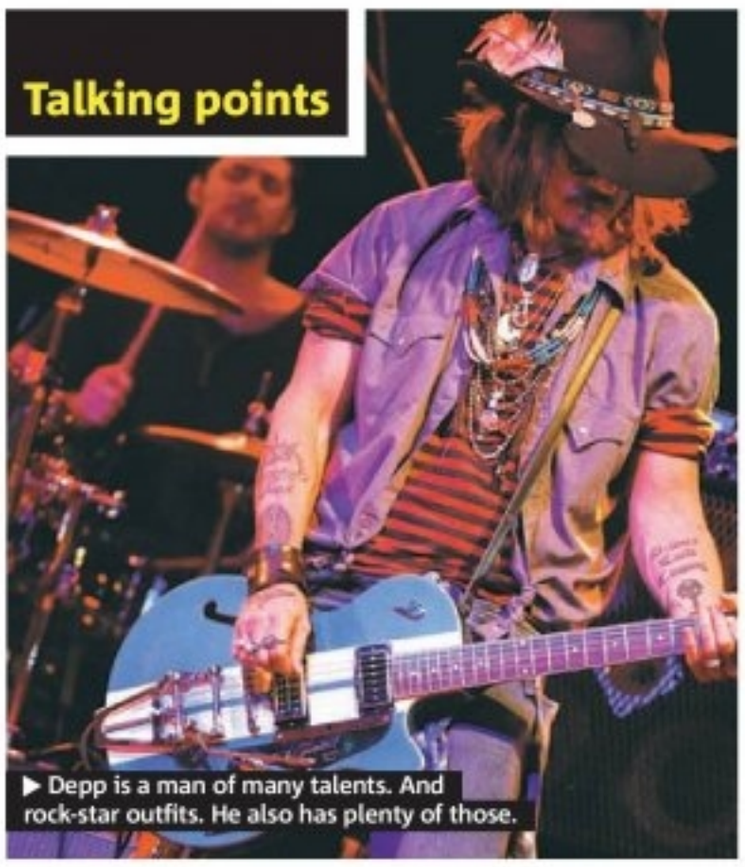
THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Talking points



▶ Depp is a man of many talents. And rock-star outfits. He also has plenty of those.

Martinez drops criminal complaint

This might not be the biggest shocker considering the recently signed custody agreement between **Halle Berry** and **Gabriel Aubry**, but **Olivier Martinez** has reportedly dropped his criminal complaint against Aubry for their bloody Thanksgiving brawl, according to Radar Online. "Olivier informed the LAPD and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office that he was no longer interested in pursuing criminal charges against Aubry," a source says. "Aubry and Berry worked out a confidential settlement last week that included specific language about how none of the parties — Halle, Gabe or Olivier — would pursue criminal charges against one another. All sides managed to agree to satisfactory terms, with the focus being on ending the mayhem for the sake of Halle and Gabriel's daughter, **Nahla**."

Swift rebounds with Harry Styles

Taylor Swift is apparently eager to spend whatever time she can with rumored boyfriend **Harry Styles**. The country crooner jetted to New York less than 24 hours after a big holiday concert to spend the afternoon with the One Direction member, according to Us Weekly. The pair, joined by Styles' stylist and her family, strolled around the Central Park Zoo, looking cozy.

Depp rocks out with Alice Cooper in LA

Johnny Depp knows how to have a good time, and sometimes that means strapping on a guitar and joining **Alice Cooper** on stage. The "Pirates of the Caribbean" star did just that recently at a Cooper concert in Los Angeles, playing along on cover songs including "Break on Through (to the Other Side)," "Revolution" and "Foxy Lady," according to People magazine. "Johnny was in great spirits," a source says. "He was really happy and at ease, especially on stage with the rest of the band." Recently single, Depp was apparently going solo that night, as the source says he wasn't "with any ladies."

Levine is not a fan of 'Honey Boo Boo'

▶ Who is your money on in this feud? Honey Boo Boo or Adam Levine?

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Adam Levine may have found a new avenue for success as a reality TV judge on "The Voice," but that doesn't mean he's a fan of other kinds of reality television. Quite the opposite, actually. "Seriously, '**Honey Boo Boo**' is the decay of Western civilization. Just because so many people watch the show doesn't mean it's good," Levine tells GQ magazine. "It's complete f—ing ignorance and the most despicable way to treat your kids. F— those people. You can put that in the magazine. F— those idiots. They're just the worst."

So take note: A judge of a heavily manufactured reality TV show that's basically designed to be a vehicle for product placement of giant corporations is decrying yet another reality TV show. When did Adam Levine, who is known for his (admittedly impressive) abs and catchy pop tunes, become our moral compass?

Fallen angels we have heard while Lohan was high

All **Lindsay Lohan** wants for Christmas is a Get Out of Jail Free card. The actress is reportedly telling her lawyer to do whatever it takes to make sure she doesn't spend Christmas behind bars, according to Radar Online. "Lindsay is absolutely freaking out about the possibility of going back to jail because she allegedly violated her probation," a source says. "Lindsay is facing about 253 days behind bars if she is found guilty of violating her probation, and she would serve 25 percent of that sentence because of overcrowding." And Lohan, who spent 13 days locked up in 2010, isn't thrilled about the prospect of 63 more. "If Lindsay could sell a body part to keep her out of jail, she would," the source says. "She is that desperate about the thought of going back to jail."

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Yesterday, Twitter was abuzz with celebrities celebrating Will and Kate's pregnancy news.

@CherylCole:
I'm soooooooo excited that we're having a royal baby!!!! Congratulations to Kate and Wills!!!!!!

@ZachBraff:
UK, congrats on your royal baby. I think I saw some pictures of the day of conception.

@RichardBranson
Congrats to Kate & Will on expecting your first child.

@KhloeKardashian:
Congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge!! A royal baby!!! :)

@PiersMorgan:
Congratulations to every magazine editor for calling Kate Middleton's pregnancy — especially those who did covers on it 11 months ago.

Zach Braff

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George Martin Halmon Banks

Klum dresses like an Egyptian

CHARLES SYKES, ASSOCIATED PRESS / INVISION

▶ "Putting the outfit on only took five minutes, but gluing all these hundreds of stones on my face took a little longer," Klum said about her jewel-encrusted face and Cleopatra costume.

A divorce and a hurricane weren't going to keep **Heidi Klum** from dressing up in 2012. When her annual Halloween party (which she used to host with her soon-to-be ex-husband **Seal**) was canceled because of Hurricane Sandy, the model decided to transform her party into a Haunted Holiday Party — and have Saturday's party benefit relief efforts. As you can tell, she still partied in style.

Some notable guests:

1. **Heidi Klum**
2. **Russell Simmons** may have borrowed his Run-D.M.C. costume from his brother.
3. **Jay Manuel** popped up as, hmm, what is he?
4. **Questlove** DJ'd the event at FINALE Nightclub.
5. Two unidentified guests went as **Hall & Oates**.
6. Model **Alyssa Miller** was a "Pretty Woman."
7. **Sandra "Pepa" Denton** of Salt-n-Pepa got wild!

2

4

5

PHOTOS BY MIKE COPPOLA/GETTY IMAGES FOR HEIDI KLUM

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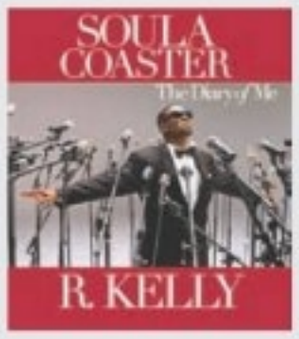
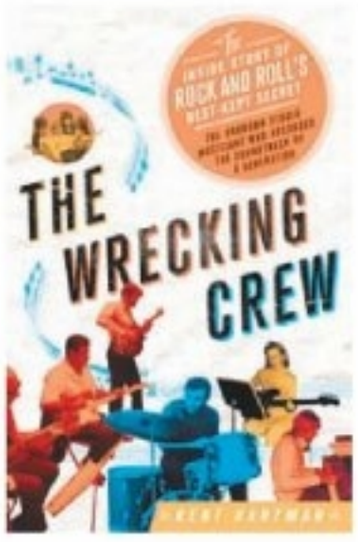
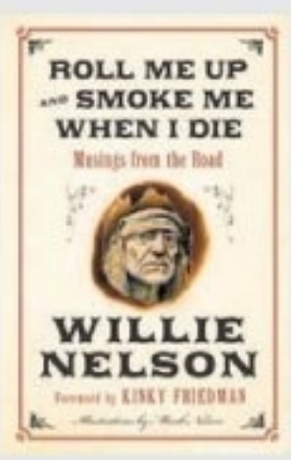


'Soulacoaster: The Diary of Me'
By R. Kelly
Equal parts genius, joker and sex fiend, R. Kelly is a complicated man. This hilariously titled memoir is a bizarre ride through Kelly's life, from Chicago's South Side to the penthouse to the courtroom to the set of "Trapped in the Closet."



'The Wrecking Crew: The Inside Story of Rock and Roll's Best-Kept Secret'
By Kent Hartman
Studio musicians are a humble lot. While stars steal the glory, these poor souls rarely get more than a nod in the liner notes. This book documents the group of Los Angeles session musicians who, in the 1960s, created some of the decade's best music. You can hear the "Wrecking Crew," the name given to the dozens of players by drummer Hal Blaine, on albums by the Beach Boys, Simon & Garfunkel and others.



'Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die' By Willie Nelson
If one day someone really rolls up Willie Nelson's corpse and smokes it, it will probably taste like whiskey, denim and an old, battered guitar. This memoir is as rambling as you'd expect, with details of the highwayman's life blown out in disorienting fragments. Scattered but vivid, it is an earnest account of a cloudy life on the road.

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Backstage Victoria's

TV watch list

'Sons of Anarchy'

DRAMA. Jax's ascent to the top of SAMCRO has been perilous, controversial and, of course, bloody. Those themes continue to play out tonight as his determination to get the motorcycle club out of the drug business leads to the kind of shocking finale we've come to expect from the series. **Season finale, 10 p.m., FX**

'New Girl'

COMEDY. Olivia Munn begins a guest arc as a love interest for curmudgeon Nick — but in typical Nick fashion, the relationship is not without its hurdles. For one, she scares the bejesus out of him. **9 p.m., Fox**

'Go On'

COMEDY. The mourners not only have lonely holidays to fear this year — they have the end of the world to dread as well. **9 p.m., NBC**

AMBER RAY

Lily Aldridge

How did you get ready for the show?
Health is my priority because I'm still nursing my daughter. I ate organic proteins and vegetables, and I've worked out a lot during nap-time so I can still be with her. I've worked really, really hard, and I'm proud of what I've done and that I'm healthy. I hope I can be a good example for other women.

What are your workouts like?
I started six weeks after my daughter was born, and I did really hard training. Then two months ago I started doing double training a day. I started doing Pilates twice a day. I worked with a ballerina, Mary Helen Bowers, and she taught me all the moves ballerinas do to get ready for a show. It's all about long and lean, and we do that for an hour and a half a day, sometimes twice a day. I'm excited to not have to work out for a while now.

What kind of underwear to do prefer?
I like cute cotton undies.

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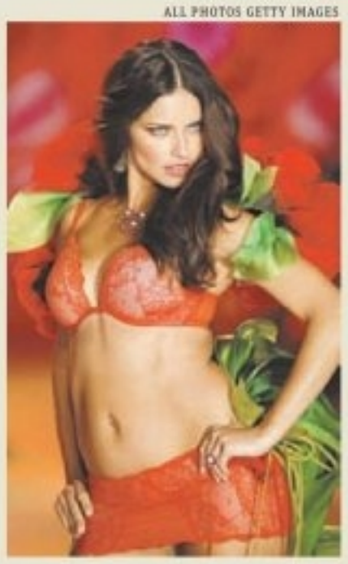
at the 2012 Secret show

The lingerie extravaganza airs tonight on CBS ◗ We stole a few moments with key players as they were primping ◗ How do they get those ridiculous bodies, you ask? ◗ Intense workouts and cake control

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Adriana Lima



Models Cara Delevingne and Jourdan Dunn reportedly ate pizza and KFC hours before the show. Would you want to scream if they ate in front of you, or join them?
Ha! I'm a little bit older than them. But regardless of age, I'm really aware of the fact that you are what you eat.
Are you saying they're going to turn into a giant pizza or a chicken wing?
Maybe not right now, but they're going to see the results in the future when they get old. It depends what they eat, but they may have problems with cholesterol or diabetes, I don't know. I just like to eat healthy. I have two children and I'm concerned about their health. I'm their example. I don't want my 3-year-old asking me, "Mama, I want chocolate for lunch." Cake is festive, it's not something you should eat everyday.

Alessandra Ambrosio

What part of your body are you most proud of?
My legs — always. They're the easiest part to work out. Abs are always hard, and I had a baby six months ago, so it's extra work there.
After the show, what are you going to indulge in?
Definitely a big dessert like a big sundae ice cream.

Miranda Kerr

All everyone wants to know is what you're eating.
[Right now] green juices I get from Pressed Juicery. It's got spinach, kale, cucumber and lemon.
Is that breakfast?
I had eggs for breakfast with avocado. For lunch I'll have some grilled chicken or grilled fish with spinach and a protein shake in between.
What part of your body are you most proud of right now?
I'm proud that my skin is good.
What type of underwear do you prefer?
I really love wearing a G-string bodysuit. I think that can really give you an edge because no one knows what's underneath. METRO

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New products

Baby's first Christmas stocking

Traditional go-tos like chocolate or candy canes are out for your little one's first stocking. These replacements will be much loved by mom and baby alike.

DOROTHY ROBINSON

1. Robeez socks, $17.50
This cute little Robeez gift box is filled with six pairs of socks for either girls or boys. Remember: It's never too early to get your offspring socks for Christmas.

2. Noodle & Boo Essential Care Kit, $15
3. Noodle & Boo Ultimate Cleansing Cloths, $9.50
The baby in your life will clean up nice with the luxurious (and very necessary) products from Noodle & Boo. We're especially fond of their Essential Care Kit and Cleansing Cloths — busy Moms always need on-the-go products for their diaper or overnight bag.

4. 'ZooBorns: The Next Generation,' $10
Babies will love looking at baby animals in this pint-sized picture book, the third in the "Zooborns" series which features all new photos of newborn wildlife from zoos and aquariums from around the world.

5. Plum Organics food pouches, $1.49
You get to eat a ton of tasty food over the holidays, why not your baby? Putting Plum Organics in a stocking will be loved by parents and babies alike (babies for the taste and parents for the break in making baby food). Their new line of Greek Yogurt Blends boast unique fruit, veggie and Greek yogurt combos. They're perfect for those babies with a sensitive stomach and a budding palate.

6. Seventh Generation's Diaper Cream, $8.99
Seventh Generation's Diaper Cream does double duty: It cleans up nasty rashes all while being part of the company's new line of USDA certified biobased baby personal care products, which is made mostly of plant-based ingredients.-

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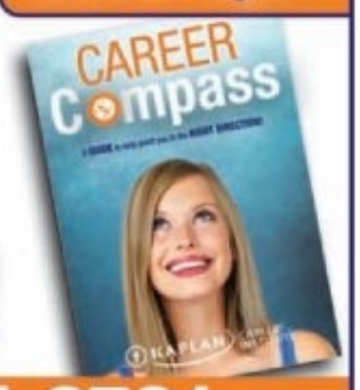
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destinations

▶ Shooting Point Oyster Company is a family farm located on the remote Eastern Shore of Virginia. Piqued your interest and your taste buds? A great resource on oyster travel in Virginia is www.virginia.org/oysters.

Oyster 101

Just as the locales of vineyards and vagaries of the growing seasons become part of the taste of wine ("terrior"), oysters develop unique flavors from the waters in which they are grown, known as their "merrior." Savoring those different flavors is part of the fun of trying new oysters. Don't miss the clean, briny and healthy Sewanseccott oyster, grown by the H.M. Terry Company in the clean waters of Hog Island Bay.

Pack a suitcase and your best oyster knife

- Virginia has become the nation's largest producer of farm-raised oysters
- Slurp 'em up while visiting the unspoiled beauty of the state's coastline

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ROB ROBINSON

▶ The historic Bayford Oyster Shucking House is one of the last remaining shucking houses on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

When you think of culinary tourism, Oregon's Willamette Valley and the Kentucky Bourbon Trail are two that probably come to mind. But another upstart is gunning to join their ranks: Virginia. The state is becoming increasingly known for its oysters — and they are getting primed to get you to come and experience them.

Virginia boasts seven oyster growing regions, three of which are located on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Although the remoteness of the Eastern Shore is one of its best qualities, there are plenty of resources for travelers when they get there. Two larger towns — Chincoteague to the north and Cape Charles to the south — have a host of quaint hotels, restaurants and galleries that make a great base to go exploring the area's little hamlets that are as interesting as their names: Nassawadox, Onancock and Wachapreague.

Some wine with those oysters?

One of the highlights of the Eastern Shore is **Chatham Vineyards**, a working farm for four centuries with an 1818 federal brick mansion. A Cape Charles expedition company, **Southeast Expeditions**, offers the opportunity to kayak up a remote tidal creek, past oyster beds and historic farms, to the vineyard for wine tastings. Along the way, the guides describe the abundant wildlife and interesting history of the area.

For foodies who love adventure

If you have an adventuresome spirit and a true love of oysters, check out many of the oyster farms in the area. Although the tourist infrastructure for the oyster farms still is developing, many of the local oyster farms are welcoming to people interested in their product. We like **Lynnhaven Oyster Company, Shooting Point Oyster Company, Cherrystone Aquafarms** and **JC Walker Brothers, Inc.**

Virginia oysters: Nature and nurture

One reason Eastern Shore oysters are so good is because of the purity of the water. Parts of the shore are designated as a United Nations Biosphere Reserve and, according to the Nature Conservancy (which has taken a role in preserving the area), it contains the longest expanse of coastal wilderness left on the eastern seaboard.

Letters

letters@metro.us

All ideological differences can be chalked up to hate

It is high time that we all understand that racism is often based on insecurities, an incapacity to understand or tolerate someone who is different. The differences can be ethnic, religious, ideological or social. There is that difference that makes us uncomfortable, uneasy, upset, scared, aggressive or even violent. The basis may be an experience, teachings, dogma, etc. Now, most religious, social and/or ethnic groups use those to make themselves look and feel more valuable than "others." So, most people have a degree of negative discrimination against certain people. Just be loving and peaceful and make your life happy. And leave other people alone.

NIALEE MASS, VIA E-MAIL

Civilization: (n.) A place where all have shoes, food

RE: "PHOTO OF COP GIVING SHOES TO HOMELESS MAN GOES VIRAL" (METRO, NOV. 30-DEC.2) While I agree that the actions of NYPD Officer Larry DePrimo who bought boots for a homeless man near Times Square was commendable, the main thing not being said is why in this day and age do we have human beings living on our streets? The sight of this man barefoot was heartbreaking. No person, regardless of their circumstances, should be in this situation. "What does a person deserve by being a person?" a question asked by the important philosopher Eli Siegel, founder of the education Aesthetic Realism, must be asked by all of us, including our elected officials. Every person deserves a decent place to live, clothes to keep them warm, food for their bodies and the ability to make a living through useful work. Until these things are a reality for every person, we are not truly civilized.

▶ The Internet sensation

MATTHEW D'AMICO, VIA E-MAIL

If Obama reviles Bush so much, why keep his tax cuts?

Since President Obama took office, or more specifically, since Republicans were elected in 2010 to challenge his policies, how many times has the president played a game of chicken with the economy? The debt ceiling crisis is still a recent memory and in December 2010, President Obama said it is wrong to raise "taxes on anyone" in a bad economy. Now, even without the financial ripple effects of Hurricane Sandy expected to show up on this week's Department of Labor jobs report, the economy is in worse shape than when Obama made the case for the extension of the Bush tax cuts. Besides, the president, who consistently blames "eight years of Bush" for the mess he inherited and has thus far failed to fix, wants to affirm 98 percent of Bush's signature financial policy.

KEVIN METZ, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** If a close pal does something that you find to be offensive, don't stew about it in silence. Air your grievance, allowing it to be resolved.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Be careful when getting involved with friends in a joint expenditure. Make sure that everyone pitches in equally when it comes time to foot the bill.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** In your heart, you'll know what needs doing, yet you still might devote only a modicum of effort to getting it done. Your rewards will reflect your input.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Don't be too quick to chastise co-workers if they aren't pulling their weight. Their explanation might end up pointing to the example you've been setting.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** This isn't a particularly good day to take a gamble. But if for some reason you feel you need to, bet only on yourself and your abilities, in situations that you totally control.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** There are strong indications that you won't be able to exercise the necessary resolve or willpower to overcome a tough situation. Both the flesh and the spirit must be willing.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** You can be a well-organized person — but only when you choose, which isn't likely to be the case currently. Your workspace could be cluttered with a lot of nondescript items.

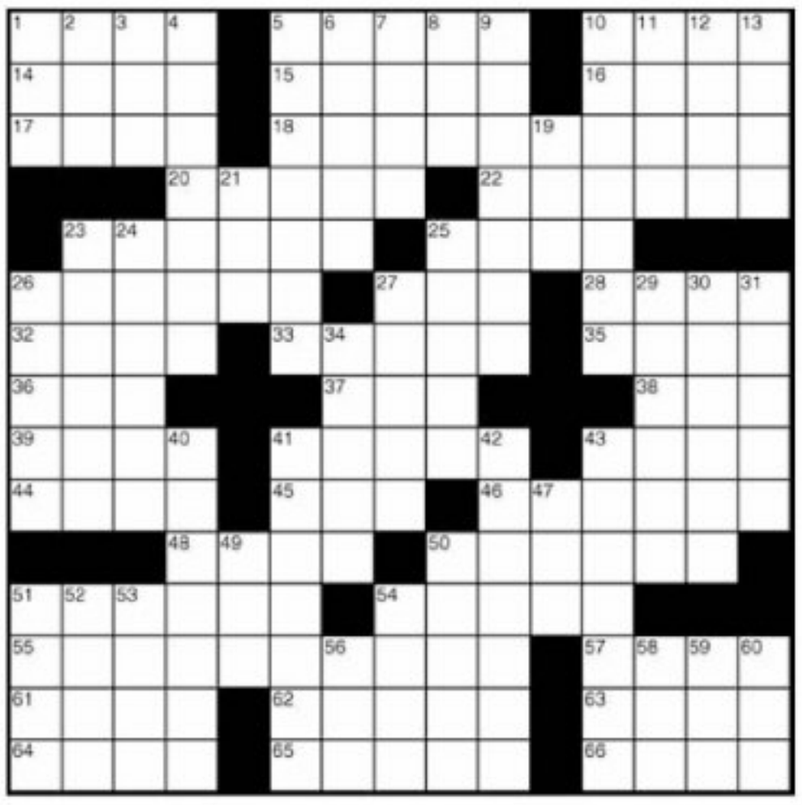
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Disappointment is likely if you expect too much from people who are only casual acquaintances. Most will feel they don't owe you a thing, and won't want to go out of their way for you.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** If you have something going that is likely to ruffle feathers, don't try to shift the blame for household friction onto anybody else but you.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Guard against inclinations toward the negative in terms of what you're hoping to accomplish. Adopting a defeatist attitude will impede any progress you're trying to make.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Your spending is likely to be strongly influenced by your most recent compatriots. If you're pinching pennies or trying to save some money, don't hang out with high rollers.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** One of the weakest and least effective things you could do is to attempt to intimidate subordinates. If you want them to do your bidding, try something positive. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**



Across
1 Big laugh (hyph.)
5 Elephant teeth
10 Dot on the ocean
14 Opportunist
15 Lopsided
16 Cubbyhole
17 Shaggy flowers
18 Imitation diamond
20 Broke off
22 Raided
23 Monet contemporary
25 Amaze
26 Turned into
27 Motel amenity
28 Counting-rhyme start
32 "— never fly"
33 Paddle-wheeler site
35 Wild plum
36 Narrow inlet
37 Dad, to Grandpa
38 School org.
39 Bin
41 Skinned an apple
43 Fox's abode
44 Monsieur, in Bonn
45 Moonbeam
46 Figure out
48 With, to Maurice
50 Big gun
51 Cliff dwellings?
54 Cheap wheels
55 Near miss (2 wds.)
57 Hunch
61 Driftwood bringer
62 Peak in a Trevanian title
63 Ancient ointment
64 Tennis ranking
65 Goddess
66 Pita treat

Down
1 Fridge sound
2 Tempe sch.
3 Skirt bottom
4 Munitions store
5 Less prompt
6 Theater employee
7 Pallet
8 Barbie paramour
9 Feel the heat
10 Chants
11 Chimney dust
12 Type of wolf
13 Made do with
19 Worthless coin
21 — de plume
23 Call it a night
24 Rich pastry
25 Tableau
26 Thin-barked tree
27 Off-white
29 Border town (2 wds.)
30 Whim
31 Pine for
34 Physicist — Newton
40 Cooked tough meat
41 Urged repeatedly
42 Window covering
43 Takeoff's opposite
47 Vane dir.
49 Notch shape
50 Feel envious
51 Statutes
52 Journalist — Ducommun
53 Took the trolley
54 Astrologers of yore
56 Make haste
58 Bad hair —
59 Make a mistake
60 Commotion

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	5	8					1	3
1				6	8	2	9	
	8		9	5				
			2		3			
				8	6		7	
	6	2	7	9				5
8	1					4	2	
9								7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

			3				5	
	2		7			4		
1	6	3		4				9
		7		8	2		3	
		1				5		
	9		1	5		6		
3				9		8	1	5
		9			1		7	
	1				5			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

G	O	N	G	■	P	A	L	E	■	P	A	P	A	L
I	D	E	A	■	U	M	P	S	■	L	L	A	M	A
G	E	A	R	■	T	I	N	T	■	U	L	N	A	S
A	R	T	L	E	S	S	■	A	N	C	I	E	N	T
■	■	A	L	B	S	■	A	K	E	L	A	S	■	■
V	A	I	N	L	Y	■	B	B	O	Y	S	■	■	■
A	B	O	D	E	■	L	I	A	M	■	■	W	E	D
L	E	T	■	S	C	O	T	T	I	E	■	O	R	E
E	S	A	■	■	H	I	T	S	■	S	P	R	A	Y
■	■	G	L	I	D	E	■	A	S	S	E	S	S	■
S	P	I	R	A	L	■	■	C	L	A	Y	■	■	■
H	E	R	E	T	I	C	■	B	O	Y	C	O	T	T
O	R	A	T	E	■	A	T	E	N	■	H	O	U	R
C	O	T	E	S	■	M	A	R	S	■	I	N	G	E
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Opinion

ANGELO CATALDI

THE VOICE OF THE PHILLY SPORTS FAN

REID DOESN'T PRACTICE WHAT HE PREACHED

Jim Washburn was fired as defensive line coach. Six weeks ago, Juan Castillo was forced out as defensive coordinator. Executives Rob Zeiger and Tim McDermott couldn't survive this season. And Jason Babin took his big mouth to Jacksonville.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send submissions to letters@metro.us.

Does anything strike you as odd here? Are any of these employees as responsible for the spectacular failure of the 2012 Eagles as coach Andy Reid? You will find no argument here that Washburn and Babin were performing well, or that Castillo was the second coming of Albert Einstein, but none of them has ever been a main character in this ongoing drama.

The leading man (the villain) is Andy Reid. And yet here we sit, Reid all but assured of a full season despite an eight-game losing streak and an increasingly bad attitude. All it took for him to clear the final hurdle was his decision yesterday — if it was his to make — that Nick Foles will start at quarterback for the rest of the season.

Quoted

Reid has chosen to save his neck instead of his dignity.

That announcement at Reid's news conference, just four days after snapping at reporters who challenged his statement that "Michael Vick is my starting quarterback," completed the sell-out of Reid. He has sold his friendship to Castillo, his loyalty to Washburn and his soul to the Eagles.

The Washburn firing, at 7 a.m. on the morning after a 38-33 loss in Dallas, was stunning not just in its timing, but also in what it said about the state of the Eagles. The veteran coach's Wide-9 defense has been a disaster, but Washburn's job appeared safe until he did the unthinkable. He let his dissatisfaction over Babin's release be known to his bosses.

If there's one thing owner Jeff Lurie and GM Howie Roseman simply won't tolerate, it's the truth. Washburn felt that Babin was his best pass-rusher, despite a dramatic drop statistically and a negative locker-room presence. The assistant was certainly entitled to his opinion — as long as it never reached his paranoid bosses. Once it did, Washburn was done.

▶ Washburn

And that's not the worst part of this latest development. No, the worst part is that Reid once again did nothing to rescue his friend, just as he sacrificed Castillo for his own survival. A coach with 14 years of experience in one city, with far more wins than any coach ever here, doesn't have to go out this way. But Reid has chosen to save his neck instead of his dignity.

Barring any sudden shifts in the winds of change, Reid will follow all of these victims out the door in four weeks, a fate long overdue for a coach who has forgotten how to do his job or how to leave gracefully.

In the end, Reid will not survive this season of shame, and neither will his legacy. From this day forward, he will always be the coach who preached loyalty to the very end, but didn't bother to follow his own words.

*– **Angelo Cataldi** is the host of 94 WIP's Morning Show, which airs weekdays 5:30-10 a.m.*

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Opinion

Babin's exile gives us small shred of joy

In a season of terrible performances, Jason Babin staked his claim last week to the most obnoxious, most maddening season by a Philadelphia athlete in recent memory. He was leading a pitiful defense with a puny 5.5 sacks when the Eagles could tolerate his grating personality no longer. So they cut him.

A one-dimensional mercenary whose aggressiveness was far more evident on Twitter than on a football field, Babin actually had the audacity last month to lecture Eagles fans on loyalty. He even posted a definition of the word on the Internet, in his tireless effort to look stupid and ungrateful.

Then, in a sweet twist to a bitter season, Babin was claimed by one of very few NFL teams worse than the Eagles, a 2-10 Jacksonville club playing in a terrible football city in the worst pro sports state in America. Babin responded by saying he was happy about the move because the Eagles had become "stagnant" and were looking at even harder times ahead.

Jason Babin collected $11 million in his second tour of duty as an Eagle, and still he couldn't summon one moment of class for an organization that had covered for his outrageous behavior every day he played in Philly. Who needs to review the definition of loyalty now?

Every once in a while, even in a miserable football season like this one, a happy image pops into the mind. For Eagles fans, it will be a joy to witness Babin failing to sack the quarterback in front of empty seats for the brief period before he becomes the nonentity he so deserves to be.

ANGELO CATALDI

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Babin's poor play and bad attitude led to the Eagles cutting the former Pro Bowl defensive end last week.

26 Sacks for Babin in parts of three seasons with the Eagles. He has 5.5 this season.

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Double trouble for Ruiz

Opinion

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ruiz will miss the first month of the season.

Carlos Ruiz had a career year in 2012, and now we know why. He was cheating.

The beloved Phillies catcher will miss the first 25 games next year because he tested positive for Adderall, a MLB-banned drug normally prescribed for ADD victims. The real story isn't that he got caught; it's that he got caught *twice*.

In other words, Ruiz was willing to risk suspension to enhance his own accomplishments. And make no mistake, the effect of Adderall was extraordinary. Ruiz hit .325 last season, 23 points higher than in any of his six previous years. He also hit 16 homers, almost double his normal total and knocked in 15 more runs than in any other season.

Now, it's important here to understand the position of Philadelphia sports fans on performance-enhancing drugs. We are in favor of them, wholeheartedly. If a player is willing to make the physical sacrifices to play better, who are we to curb their zeal for success? In 23 years on Philadelphia sports radio, I haven't taken one call from a fan who was against our players taking steroids.

Where we draw the line is when a player fails to heed a proper warning. Ruiz ignored the first positive test, and the team will pay the price for that stupid decision next April. In fact, it will probably continue to pay the price all year. Does anyone really believe the Phils will be getting back the run-producing No. 5 hitter he was last year? History shows that an Adderall-free Carlos Ruiz is not that good.

The moral of the story is a simple one. If you're going to cheat, don't get caught. And, above all, don't get caught *twice*. ● ANGELO CATALDI

Idle thoughts from Angelo Cataldi ...

1 No news is good news. The best news last week was the decision by B.J. Upton to take $75-million in a five-year contract with Atlanta. When Upton strikes out in key spots and refuses to run hard on routine plays, the Phils will realize how lucky they are.

2 Now hiring. A handful of NHL owners are meeting today with a handful of players in a negotiating session that excludes Commissioner Gary Bettman and union chief Donald Fehr. Great idea. Somebody has to explain why these two miserable men still have their jobs.

3 Trading places. Bryce Brown has gained 347 yards on the ground in his first two games as a starter, behind a suspect line, no less. So is it too soon to wonder how much the Birds could get if they traded LeSean McCoy?

4 Could be worse. Donovan McNabb is predicting the Eagles are going to get even worse this season. No, don't worry. He isn't planning a comeback with his old team. At this point, that's the only way things could get worse.

5 No basketball to see here. Andrew Bynum is being charged in court by his L.A. neighbors with racing down the street in his luxury sports car, playing profane music at ear-splitting levels and acting like a spoiled jerk. Hey, at least no one is accusing him of playing basketball.

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Reid turns to Foles as starter for rest of season, Vick still out

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Let the conspiracy theories run wild.

Four days after reports that Mike Vick was unhappy and the Eagles were delaying his concussion testing broke, Andy Reid announced that Nick Foles will remain his starting quarterback for the remainder of the season. The coach credited Foles' progression for the move, while noting that Vick was still stuck in phase four of his rehab.

"I think where we're at right now in the season that gives this kid an opportunity to play and finish it up. Number one, I just think he's playing well enough to where I think he can win football games for us, and two, I think where we sit at this position in the season, [and] I think it's the right thing to do. With Michael we need to make sure he gets healthy. This thing has carried on a while here now and I want to make sure he is good to go."

Foles, a third-round pick out of Arizona, enjoyed his best performance of the season in a 38-33 loss to Dallas Sunday. The rookie finished 22-of-34 for 251 yards and a touchdown with no interceptions. And it sure looked like Foles was playing with an expanded playbook.

"You see the footwork is better when he's throwing the football," Reid said. "It's allowing us to add more into his repertoire of throws and he's been working very hard on that."

Reid still has no timetable for Vick's return, but admitted that if or when he does return he would be listed as Foles' backup. Reid spoke to Vick before announcing the decision and there is no ill will.

"He was very positive about it," Reid said. "Completely understood and was on board."

Vick was unavailable for comment, but Reid said last Friday that the concussed quarterback has been around the team and attending walk-throughs.

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Foles went 22-of-34 for 251 yards and a score Sunday night against Dallas.

Washburn fired

Andy Reid shook up his coaching staff again when he dismissed Jim Washburn.

The defensive line coach, reportedly disgruntled after the Eagles cut Jason Babin, is best known for installing the Wide-9, a defensive front that didn't seem to be working for the Eagles.

Tom Brasher will take over. He served as Eagles defensive line coach in 1985 and again from 1999-2005.

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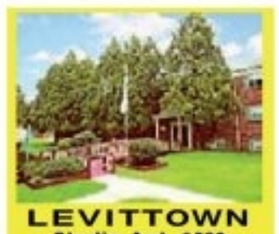

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GPTMC
miles
marketing destinations

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We are seeking a highly motivated, articulate sales professional to represent the GPTMC, their marketing efforts and their audience in a professional manner. Ideal candidate knows Philadelphia and its tourism-related businesses, comes from an account management background and has minimum of 3 years related digital sales experience. Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution is required.

Responsibilities include:

- Hit and/or exceed revenue targets through consultative selling to tourism-related businesses.
- Secure weekly in-person client meetings and build strong relationships with prospects.
- Use designated account management software to maintain the records in your database.
- Meet or exceed weekly performance standards for sales activity.
- Cultivate understanding of existing customers and prospects' businesses. In addition to securing advertising agreements, be proactive in providing performance reporting and consulting with them on their current needs, target audiences and industry trends.
- Develop new business through referrals from existing customers, and utilize industry-related publications/networking with industry peers to develop prospective clients.
- Interact with the GPTMC and other departments to share leads, ideas and participate in Association events.
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We offer a competitive salary range commensurate with experience, excellent benefits, 401(k) and generous paid time off.

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215-203-8745 Fee

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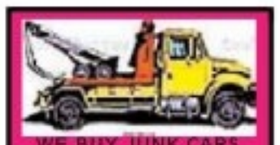
Miscellaneous



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